65 people from 20 countries participated. A Volume has been brought out, entitled:

"CONCEPTS OF SPACE: ANCIENT AND MODERN". In 1988, an Exhibition, a Seminar, Workshops and Lectures were organised on the theme of AKARA (Calligraphy). 61 people from India and abroad participated. In 1990 an Exhibition, a Seminar, many preliminary Seminars were organised on the theme of TIME (KALA). This was attended by scientists, philosopher, art-historians etc. 66 persons from India and abroad participated.

In November 1991 an Exhibition, a Seminar, workshops were organised on the Cave Art of India and China and an Exhibition of the reproductions of the murals of Dunhuang (China) Caves was presented. 22 delegates from India, China, Russia, France participated in the Seminar.

In addition to the catalogues on SPACE, AKARA and TIME, the following states of picture postcards based on the collections of the IGNCA have been released:

Indian Pigeons and Doves

Views from Himalayan Mountains

Rock Paintings of Bhimbetka

The Brunner's Paintings

The Indian Pigeons and Doves

The Birds of Paradise

The Calico Painting and Printing

Ancient Architecture in India

The Art of Dunhuang Grottoes.

Sanskrit Schools in Bihar

4195. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sanskrit schools/colleges in Bihar;

(b) the number of such schools and colleges which are recognised by the Boards/ Universities and are conducting examinations for more than five years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote Sanskrit in the country, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The information is not available in the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government include the implementation of schemes for financial assistance to Voluntary Sanskrit Organisations, Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidhyalayas, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan two deemed to be Universities at Tirupati and New Delhi, Rashtriya Veda Vidhya Pratishthan, Preservation of Oral Tradition of Vedic and All-India Elocution Contestant scheme for financial assistance for development of Sanskrit Education to States/ U. Ts. in the country including Bihar.

[*Translation*]

Hindi Medium in IRT Diploma Courses

4196. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Hindi - medium in the diploma

courses conducted by the Institute of Railways Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The Institute of Rail Transport is a non-official, non-profit body of Railway executives, staff and other professionals registered under the Societies Act dedicated to the study and research of subject pertaining to Transport, particularly Rail Transport. It is not possible to issue any direction to the Society to introduce Hindi medium in the courses conducted by the Institute.

[*English*]

Menengitis deaths

4197. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of deaths reported in the country on account of meningitis over the years;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported on account of the disease;

(c) whether meningitis vaccine is not available in most of the Government hospitals and health centres; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the disease and make the vaccine available in sufficient quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Available data do not indicate increase in the number of deaths due to meningitis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Vaccine has limited role to play in epidemic of meningitis because of time taken for development of active mmunity. Moreover, mass vaccination against meningococcal meningitis is not cost effective and is hot recommended.

Health being a State subject, it is for the State Govt. to take appropriate action. However, for control of Menigitis outbreak, the following steps are generally required to be taken.'

1. Early diagnosis and treatment of cases.

2. In case carriers are detected, they should be given chemiprophylaxis.

3. Chemoprophylaxis of contracts especially in schools.

4. Improvement of environmental conditions to decrease over crowding.

5. Vaccination to high risk population.

Navyug Schools

4198. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Navyug Schools of Eighth-standard upto 10+2 standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of schools likely to be converted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?